



(I),

or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

E is a six-membered aromatic carbocyclic ring in which F and G are C;

$L^1$  is O;

$L^2$  is selected from the group consisting of a bond,  $C_2$  alkenylene,  $C_2$  alkynylene, O,  $NR^9$ ,  $C(O)$ , S,  $S(O)$ ,  $SO_2$ ,  $SO_2NR^9$ ,  $NR^9SO_2$ ,  $C(O)NR^9$ ,  $NR^9C(O)$ , and  $CO_2$ ;

X is  $NR^7$ ;

$R^1$  is selected from the group consisting of aryl, arylalkyl, heterocycle, and (heterocycle)alkyl;

$R^2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, cyano, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl, hydroxy, and hydroxyalkyl;

$R^3$  is selected from the group consisting of aryl, heterocycle, and cycloalkyl;

$R^{4-6}$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $NR^9C(O)$ ,  $C(O)NR^9$ , alkanoyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkynyl, amido, amino, aminoalkyl, aminosulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, aryloxy, arylsulfonyl, azido, carboxy, cyano, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, halo, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, nitro, nitroalkyl, oxo, and thio(oxo);

$R^7$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl, and trialkylsilyl;

$R^9$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkyl, amidoalkyl, aminoalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, carboxyalkyl, heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, and a nitrogen protecting group;

each  $R^{12}$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, amino, halo, and hydroxy;

m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

p is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

q is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4.

3 (Amended). A compound according to Claim 2 wherein

$L^2$  is selected from the group consisting of a bond,  $NR^9SO_2$ , and  $C(O)NR^9$ ;

wherein each group is drawn with its left end attached to F and its right end attached to R<sup>3</sup>;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and hydroxy;

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of aryl and heterocycle;

R<sup>12</sup> is hydrogen; and

p is 0 or 1.

a2

a3

18 (Amended). A compound according to Claim 3 wherein one of R<sup>4-6</sup> is cyano.

a4

21 (Amended). A compound according to Claim 3 wherein one of R<sup>4-6</sup> is halo.

a5

28 (Amended). A compound according to Claim 27 selected from the group consisting of

4-(((2',5-dichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

**4-(((5-CHLORO-2'-METHYL(1,1'-BIPHENYL)-2-YL)METHOXY)(1-METHYL-1H-IMIDAZOL-5-YL)METHYL)BENZONITRILE;**

4-(((5-chloro-2'-methoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((3',5-dichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

**4-(((5-chloro-3'-methyl(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;**

4-(((5-chloro-3'-(trifluoromethyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((5-chloro-3'-methoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

**4-(((5-chloro-3'-fluoro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;**

4-(((4',5-dichloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((4-chloro-2-(1-naphthyl)benzyl)oxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((3'-amino-5-chloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

3'-chloro-6'-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-3-carbonitrile;

4-(((2'-acetyl-5-chloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((4'-acetyl-5-chloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

4-(((4'-tert-butyl-5-chloro(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

05 4-(((5-chloro-3'-ethoxy(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile;

N-(5'-chloro-2'-(((4-cyanophenyl)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methoxy)methyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-3-yl)acetamide;

4-(((5-chloro-4'-(trifluoromethyl)(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile; and

4-(((5-chloro-3'-formyl(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methoxy)(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)benzonitrile.

33 (Amended). A compound according to Claim 32 wherein

a4  $L^1$  is O;

X is  $NR^7$ ; and

$R^2$  is selected from the group consisting of amino, halo and hydroxy.

a7 38 (Amended). A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

$R^2$  is hydroxy; and

$R^{21}$  is aryl.

a8 40 (Amended). A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

$R^2$  is hydroxy; and

$R^{21}$  is heterocycle.

a9 42 (Amended). A compound according to Claim 33 herein

$R^2$  is halo; and

$R^{21}$  is aryl.

a10 44 (Amended). A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

$R^2$  is halo; and

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$R^{21}$  is heterocycle.

46 (Amended). A compound according to Claim 33 wherein

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$R^2$  is amino; and

$R^{21}$  is aryl.